AN

ATTEMPT

TO

RECONCILE all DIFFERENCES

BETWEEN THE

Preſent FELLOWS and LICENTIATES of the *Royal College of Phyſicians* in LONDON:

In which are laid down,

The GRIEVANCES complained of by the LICENTIATES;

A PROPOSAL to redreſs thoſe GRIEVANCES;

WITH

Some REFLECTIONS on the ſaid PROPOSAL.

LONDON:

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The GRIEVANCES *complained of by the Licentiates, which were delivered to the Preſident of the College at the* Comitia Majora, *on the* 11*th of* December, 1752.

They Complain,

THAT they are not permitted to be preſent at the *Comitia Majora*, whilſt the Buſineſs of the College is tranſact-

ing, and are denied the Right of Voting.

THAT they are excluded from all Offices of Honour and Truſt in the ſaid College, and even the Capacity of being elected into any ſuch Offices.

THAT a large Fine has been exacted from, and paid by them, towards the Support of the College; although they are not allowed to enjoy the Privileges and Rights of that Corporation, as Members thereof.

THAT an Annual Tax of *Two Pounds Four Shillings* has been laid and levied upon them only, towards the Support of the College.

THAT a Bond has been illegally demanded, as they apprehend, and taken from them, to compel the Payment of the aforeſaid Annual Tax.

EVERY one of the above Articles they deem to be a Grievance: They having been examined, approved, and admitted to practiſe Phyſick without Limitation, in and within ſeven Miles of *London*; which appears by Diploma's under the common Seal of the College.

A PROPOSAL *to redreſs the aforeſaid* GRIEVANCES.

IN order to reconcile all Differences between the preſent Fellows and Licentiates of the College, it is propoſed that a Standing Order or Statute be made to the following Effect.

ORDERED, That for the future the Number of Fellows ſhall be *Fourſcore*, and that all Fellowſhips which ſhall happen to be vacant on every St *Luke*'s Day, ſhall be annually filled up out of the Commonalty, * on the ſame or ſome other Day.

* There are but Two Orders of Men in the College, *Fellows* and *Licentiates*, by the latter muſt be meant the Commonalty.

Some

Some REFLECTIONS *on the above* PROPOSAL.

AND *Firſt*, This Statute is in no wiſe repugnant to any of the Royal Charters granted to the College, or to any Act of Parliament; and is taken, as near as may be, from the Charters of King *Charles*, and King *James* II. under which the College has acted for many Years paſt, as appears from the Entries in their Books, and under which it may ſtill act; as all Powers in any Royal Charter, not contrary to Law, may be put in Force, though not confirmed by Act of Parliament. The expreſs Words in the Charter of K. *Charles* are, "The *Fellows* ſhall be choſen out

of the *Commonalty*;" and in that of King *James*, "The Fellows may, or ſhall, be *Fourſcore*." And if the aforeſaid Statute be made, an End may effectually be put to the Differences herein mentioned, and all Things flow ſmoothly and quietly on, in the ſame Channel they now run; as the Government of the College will reſt in the ſame Hands it is now in, *viz.* in the *Preſident*, *Elects*, *Cenſors*, and *Fellows*. In regard to the *Licentiates*, they will obtain all that they ſeem to want or aim at, to wit, a full Redreſs of their Grievances complained of: They will then be, *Re & Nomine*, Members of the College, under the Name of *Commonalty*; and as ſuch, will in due Time be elected into the Fellowſhips, according to their Merit; will then enjoy

choſen into all Offices of Honour and Truſt; nor can they complain any more of the Fine laid upon them at the Time of their Admiſſion, as all Corporations have an undoubted Right of laying an equal, reaſonable Fine, on their reſpective Members.

And in order to give this Propoſal more Weight, let it be conſidered, that no Detriment can accrue to the Regular Doctors of the Univerſities of *Oxford* or *Cambridge*, thoſe good and old Allies of the College; for by this new intended Statute it is only propoſed, that ſuch Fellowſhips ſhall be filled up out of the Members of the Commonalty, as ſhall happen to be vacant on every St *Luke*'s Day: As to all other Fellowſhips which ſhall be vacant before St *Luke*'s Day, they may be filled

up at any Time of the Year that the College pleaſes, out of ſuch Doctors as ſhall have regularly taken their Degrees at either Univerſity: And as for all other Doctors who ſhall not have regularly obtained their Degrees according to the Statutes made and provided for that Purpoſe, the Univerſities will undoubtedly think it right, that ſuch ſhall be taken into the College upon the ſame Terms on which all others are admitted and elected. And if this Reſpect be conſtantly ſhewn to *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, a proper and ſufficient Diſtinction will be made betwixt their Graduates and Doctors from other Univerſities, as the latter may be kept (without ſingular Merit promotes them) for ever on the Liſt of the Commonalty. And as no Detriment can ariſe from the Acceptance of this Propoſal to

the

the Regular Doctors of the Univerſities, ſo no Diſhonour can fall on the College, by admitting into their Society as many of the preſent Licentiates as will make up the Number of Fellows *Fourſcore*; ſince all the Licentiates have been examined by the *Cenſors* (who are upon Oath to do Juſtice) in the ſame Manner the Fellows themſelves are, as to their Learning and all other Qualifications in reſpect to the Practice of Phyſick; and in Proof thereof, every one of them has obtained a Diploma under the common Seal of the College, in which He is declared to be a Man of Probity and a Man of Learning; *Probum Doctumq; Virum.* —— Upon the Whole, nothing more will be granted by the College to the Licentiates than this: That they will for the

future be Members of the College under the Name of *Commonalty*, and will be capable of being elected into ſuch Fellowſhips on every St *Luke*'s Day, as ſhall not have been filled up by Doctors from *Oxford* or *Cambridge*. And in Caſe the College ſhall think proper to come into theſe Meaſures, it is hoped that not only all Law-Suits and Animoſities will ceaſe, but that every Member of the Commonalty will, at the Time of his Admiſſion into the Fellowſhip, follow the laudable Cuſtom of other Royal Foundations of the City of *London*, and make a handſome Donation* (according to his Ability) towards the Support of the Body

* A Donation of *Twenty Guineas* is now accepted by the College in lieu of the annual Tax of *Two Pounds Four Shillings*, and deem'd an Equivalent for the ſame.

Body Corporate, which cannot be thought unreaſonable, as the Difference is ſo great, both in Expence of Time and Money, between obtaining the Degree of Doctor of Phyſick in our own and at foreign Univerſities. And by theſe Donations and this Coalition, the College will be the better enabled to ſuppreſs and puniſh all illiterate Quacks, and unskilful Practiſers in Phyſick, which was the original good Intention of founding this Royal Corporation; whereby much Benefit muſt ariſe to the Publick, and the College will demonſtrate their Care and Affection for their Fellow Citizens. And when all Differences ſhall be thus amicably adjuſted, nothing will then remain but humbly to petition thoſe great and worthy Perſons who are named for *Viſitors* of

× The Lord Chancellor — The Lo
chief Juſtices, and the Lord chief
Baron.

of the College (if it ſhould be thought neceſſary, in order to avoid any further Contention) to give their kind Aſſiſtance towards obtaining an Act of Parliament to confirm the Charter of King *Charles* II. or ſo much of it as ſhall be agreeable to them; and relates to the Members of the College, and to them only; with the Addition made to it by King *James* II. in regard to enlarging the Number of Fellows to *Fourſcore*.

N. B. It ſhould have been inſerted, in order to keep up to the ſtrict Letter of the Charters before mentioned, that all Doctors from *Oxford* or *Cambridge* muſt always be firſt admitted into the Commonalty, and then into the Fellowſhip: Which

may

may be done on one and the ſame College Day; as no Time is fixed by the Charters how long any one ſhall remain a Member of the Commonalty.

FINIS.